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IDA MARSHALL LINING,
Editor.

MARY B. POPPENHEIM,
Associate Editor.

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A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED
TO WOMAN'S WORK.

CHARLESTON, S. C.

Official Organ for the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

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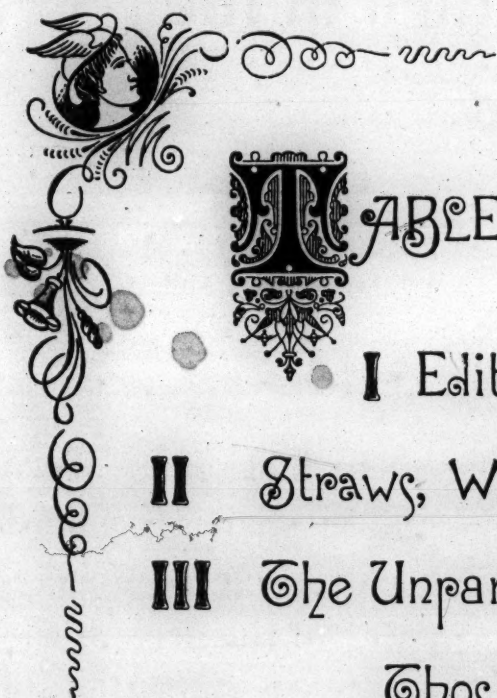


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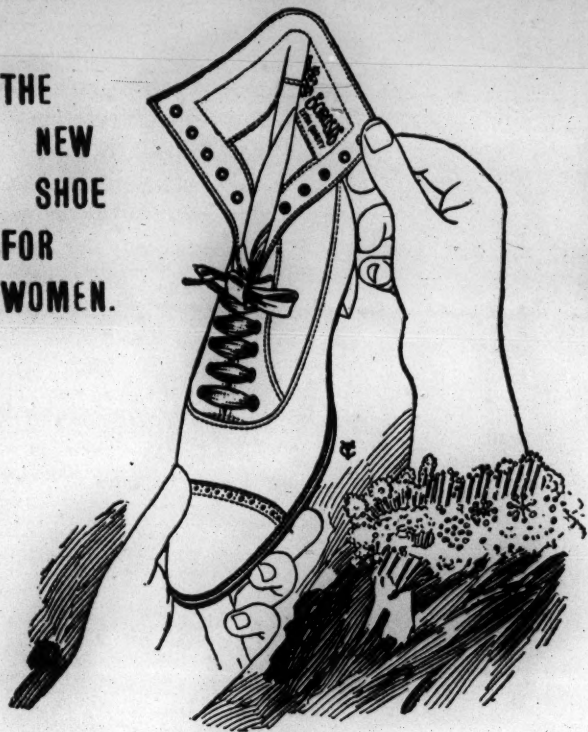
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Editorial.

DOES anything give us more strength and courage for the day's work than that vitality which emanates from the clear, honest eye of a sincere person? If we are ever tempted to be insincere or untruthful in our relations with one another, surely we would resist this temptation could we only realize the terrible torture that we might inflict on a simple, straightforward nature.

To the absolutely truthful character the discovery of false dealing in a fellow man is like a wasting fever; it oppresses the heart, and destroys all the body's vitality.

We owe it to others, if not to our own souls, to be sincere, for we have no right to upset a fellow creature's faith in human nature, and this we surely do if we are unfaithful in our promises, and insincere in our utterances.

Every soul is the center of a world of its own, and we can never know of all the faith and confidence which may rest in our integrity and truth. Therefore, let us be careful that we do not disappoint our fellow laborer in this work-a-day world, when he looks to us confidently as beacon lights of uprightness.

With this thought in view, we dare not be other than steadfast and true.

Fellow-women, let us take as our watchword these strong, brave words: "Sincerity and Truth," and let us engrave them upon our hearts, and weave them into our lives, for "a man's immortal part is fashioned day by day within his heart."

MRS. WARD, the President of the Chicago Woman's Club, made twelve interesting suggestions to that Club on her retirement from its Presidency. She advised her club women to train their voices for speaking, as a great deal of force is added to an argument when one is able to hear it without effort. This suggestion should be considered by all club women in our own State.

Again, she suggests the removal of hats and gloves in club meetings, as these articles of dress are apt to act as barriers to intimate association, and are also inconveniences when seats are on a level.

Another suggestion which strikes us as worthy of consideration is, that clubs should respect their committees, since committees are supposed to represent the dignity and honor of the club as a whole.

The eighth suggestion in regard to short papers for a club is an apt one. In her opinion a half hour is the limit for the average club paper.

The suggestion which seems full of possibilities for discussion, and one which must appeal to all thoughtful women, is the one in regard to the advisability of admitting men to club meetings. She says with great justice that whatever separates men and women cannot be helpful to humanity, and we must certainly agree with her on that point.

Finally she closes her address with an admonition to club women to emphasize the social side of club life, and to cultivate the sweet, gentle and unobtrusive relationships which beautify life.

ANY subscriber to The Keystone not receiving their copy will confer a favor upon the editors by dropping them a card; we want none of our patrons to miss a copy.

A New Departure.

PHILADELPHIA has the only shoe store exclusively for women in the United States. A young man named Snyder, the shoe buyer for one of the big New York department stores, recognizing the merit of the Sorosis Shoe, has opened a store in Philadelphia for the sale of this shoe alone.

This unique store The Keystone has had the privilege of examining, and we found in it a handsomely appointed waiting room for ladies, with a writing desk supplied with good stationery, and all the magazines.

A telephone, a toilet room, and a ladies maid were also there free to all the weary women who might enter the friendly portals of this attractive shop. The courteous attendant who showed us around told us that this venture was only three weeks old, and that it was proving to be a most gratifying success.

If stamps are sent for subscriptions, please wrap them in oiled paper, or take some means to keep them from sticking. The editors are always glad to receive stamps, but many of them are rendered perfectly useless through careless mailing.

Southern Authors Coming to the Front.

FEW days ago, the B. F. Johnson Publishing Company, of Richmond, Va., received a cablegram from the Government Department of Education in Porto Rico, notifying them of the adoption of their Carnefix "PRACTICAL SIGHT-WORD READING CHART AND PHONIC EXERCISE AND PRIMER," with an order for several thousand dollars' worth of the Charts. There followed from the Department a letter, from which we take the following extract:

War Department.
Headquarters
Department of Porto Rico.
Bureau of Education.

San Juan, P. R., August 10, 1899

B. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va.:

Gentlemen—You have doubtless received by cablegram our order for 500 English Carnefix Reading Charts.

Your chart competed with all the principal charts in the market, and its selection for the schools of this Island was due to the fact that it contained more material, and is better adapted to children having slight knowledge of English, than any other presented.

Very respectfully,

VICTOR S. CLARKE,
President Insular Board of Education.

This is a high compliment to a Southern author. Miss Fannie D. Carnefix, a teacher in the primary department of the public schools of Roanoke, Va., by years of patient labor, prepared the Chart, and it is published by the Richmond house referred to. Very soon after its preparation, it was adopted for exclusive use in the public schools of Virginia. Since that, numerous adoptions have followed.

The Chart will probably be adopted for use in Cuba, and other Spanish speaking countries. The publishers are already negotiating with parties in South America in regard to introducing it there.—Exchange.

SOUTH CAROLINA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS.

"Animis opibusque parati."

This department is official and will be continued monthly.
Official news and calls of Federation Committees printed here.

List of Officers.

President, Mrs. M. W. Coleman, Seneca, S. C.
Vice-President, Mrs. J. Sumpter Means, Spartanburg, S. C.
Recording Secretary, Miss Louisa B. Poppenheim, Charleston, S. C., (31 Meeting Street.)
Corresponding Secretary, Miss Mary Hemphill, Abbeville, S. C.
Treasurer, Miss E. J. Roach, Rock Hill, S. C.
Auditor, Mrs. M. P. Gridley, Greenville, S. C.

Official Notice.

At the Annual Convention in Chester, "The Keystone" was adopted as the official organ of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. All clubs are urged to make use of this medium for giving publicity to all club news, as well as official news of the Federation.

MRS. M. W. COLEMAN,
President,
South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs.

THE Paris Exposition Committee of the G. F. W. C. with Mrs. Helmuth as Chairman, met at Young's Hall, Boston, Mass., on September 6th. A circular is now in preparation, detailing the scope of the work of this committee. There is to be a one day session of the Club Congress, and the meeting will follow close on the Milwaukee Biennial.

THE Art Committee at the Milwaukee Biennial will present a program covering two days.

WE have all returned from our summer outing; let us remember the stay-at-homes, by sending the books we have read, to the Presidents of our clubs, for the Traveling Library; not those with the covers torn off, or those we deem unfit for our daughters and our sons to read, but let us give the book which pleased us most, and the one we feel will go out as a messenger of hope, of joy, or of courage to take a firmer grasp upon life.

CLUBS wishing to have their reports published in The Keystone, must send them in by the 18th of each month, or run the risk of being left over for the next issue. Punctuality in these matters helps the editors.

Straws, Wind-Directed to a Looker-On.

Query. What truly is every teacher?

Answer. A character builder.

IT is well known that when materials are soft and pliable, they are easiest to mould; that it is then they may be given shape and purpose, that should mistakes occur then is the only opportunity to correct them; at the same time 'tis best to make no mistakes.

"A chiel's amang ye
Takin notes."

Did you ever think how we grown-ups must appear to the children so recently from the God-world, the somewhere into the here? How sensitive they must necessarily be, to every passing thought of ours, and how their very sensitiveness, their seeming helplessness, makes them so infinitely susceptible to every impression,—of "whatever" nature? Mind, with its offspring, thought is immortal, and so, oh! teachers, of every varying grade, right here, on the door step of a new scholastic term, ask yourselves these questions: How are we moulding these impressionable minds? What seeds are we planting in these fallow souls?

The intuitive sense of childhood should ever act as a guard upon each and every individual. What effect do you expect to realize in character building in the individual school when ungenerous feeling and petty rivalry hold place in the thoughts of the teachers toward each other? Will not such a state of affairs tend to make the school a hot-bed of hypocrisy? You, who know your building is for aye, why let little personal likes and dislikes control you as individuals to the disadvantage of teachers as a class, and the lasting injury of your innocent children? At least consider the time, energy and thought wasted in criticising others, which, if devoted to the development of your legitimate work, would render you a veritable wonder-worker, not only in your school, but in the community. Surely in each city and town the Kindergartens and schools, to be an assured success in every particular, should be like one great and glorious structure, the separate houses as so many rooms thereto, the varying systems, as expressed in individual thought, each giving its best lovingly, gladly to make the pile complete.

Take the Kindergarten, for instance. To the outsider, "the one who looks on," a Kindergarten seems a holy of holies in the world's economy of labor; a place where any thing less than perfect truth, invincible courage and patience, with tenderest and perfect sympathy and accord, as to what constitutes a Kindergarten and 'gartner, can have no abiding. Surely the 'gartner should be fitted, by and in all these things, to rear her plants only on these lines. The Kindergarten is by very name and nature a builder, but how can her building stand if she is ever mixing for herself "the untempered mortar" of conceit and rivalry, and for others the criticism of uncharity? Know, oh! Kindergartners, what you are building must build, but what will be the result? Think you, that carping criticism, and questioning the validity and capacity for work of a sister, will result in anything but human hovels, unworthy the name of house? Character building forsooth! "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so." You think uncharity, and your children, born detectives, will be it, and live it. "Children," says one, "are the best physiognomists." Unkind, disloyal, envious thought does not strengthen and make beautiful. There is no surer law than that of retribu-

tion. "Whatsoever ye mete, it shall be measured to you again;" except the law of spiritual impenetrability, viz: that where God (all good) is, evil cannot be.

Again, who made any of us a judge of another's work? Teachers! for your art, your work, your very truest life, your children's sake, lay aside prejudice, petty rivalry, severe, oft-times cruel criticism, and unite among yourself that you may be strong to build most surely the temples of God, pure characters, whose foundations are laid in the plastic hearts and minds of little children, of whom the purest, highest character of all time and history said: "Suffer them to come unto Me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." And again: "Their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in Heaven."

—IVAN SWITHIN.

October 19th, 1899.

The Unparliamentary Woman an Impediment.

IN the last few years the South Carolina women have become, like other women of the time, restlessly active and actively useful in modes unguessed before by their grandmothers or by themselves. New liberties "like strange garments cleave not to the mould but by aid of use."

Notably this is the case in public business assemblages, where for want of instruction in form, women appear as if they had been elected to the U. S. Senate and found no seat ready for them.

The more that women are turned out of colleges, the more energies are thrown out amongst us; and the more needful becomes fixed rule and authority for conducting affairs, condensed into business and parliamentary form.

The relations of the presiding officer and the floor members, are misapprehended to the detriment of business progress, in some bodies. The chairman is an officer, whose duty it is to dispense just and equal opportunity to those on the floor, for the expression of their views, to keep the trend of business under discussion; to clear confusion from the subject in the change made by added propositions, in experienced minds of members, and to expedite and to dispose of business. The chair is not the place for "Bossism" or self exaltation; the officer is the servant, and not the master of the body; not the law maker, but the preserver of order and decorum, under given rules.

Whilst restraining the wandering talk of members, a faithful presiding officer would develop the efforts of the timid, who might lose their cause by unwarranted acquiescence or ignorance—simply of the form in which to persistently protect the interests they represent. Logic is not impoliteness; nor difference of opinion, though urged, to be construed as personal opposition.

Some members wilt at interruption; whereas such checks are the means of steering business to a climax. The members shape affairs by speaking, and the chairman should be limited to keeping the speakers in proper relation to the subject debated, and not risk her grip over the meeting by projecting opinion or partizanship upon discussion.

The meetings of our old time women were held only to operate charity and good deeds.

Benevolent and religious councils are supposed to be ordered by serenity, that comes of unit intention and desire. But even here we may find a warning; for serenity grows

scant, and rules strong as bands of steel are required to harness down passions, ambitions and personal designs.

One may recall the proceedings of a council away back in time, when the followers of a candidate for a Bishopric chased over and under the benches the other candidate, and achieved a conquest; that was, though, in back ages, before the prevalence of the amenities of later conventional order.

Here in our State women meet in Councils, Clubs, Chapters, and other organizations, with the definite purpose of setting projects into existence.

In one village we hear that a club has put up a town clock, and is active agent in "village improvements." These are sturdy undertakings; they involve the same contest of judgment, provision and plans that occur in municipal councils.

Naturally earnestness and conviction will smother the tender graciousness of the salon woman; advocates will push business to executive result and parliamentary courtesy, and information will keep women socially out of the waters of Marah, if anything will.

At a certain council of women the President announced that she had no value for parliamentary bondage, that she would run her club on a "woman's ways," but having a business connection interlaced with a men's organization, the society quickly found itself disjointed and jostled, and the "woman's way" had to give way to the usual customs of organizations.

A danger comes from "still life" legislation. This is faulty, if not vicious. There should be a set intention to meet, and to maintain duties assumed by membership.

There is no business association in which the judgment and opinion of each person is not due; and the knowledge of the way to ensure their expression and weight is a duty. This way is marked out in parliamentary guides.

A certain club passed an appropriation, not on its merits, but merely "in courtesy to the lady who proposed it." The "bill" was a heavy "draft" upon a limited exchequer.

Lacking opposition, one hundred dollars was sent where it was of no benefit to the organization, and later the society lamented not having it to apply where it was locally needed.

Some women objected to red tape, delay, longer consideration of a subject, etc. There is need for the time given for tying the tape.

The masses of women are not equipped with capacity and information, to make safe, snap judgments; the provisions of parliamentary usage are wise, and adapted to prevent this error.

"To lie on the table," and "postponement," give a chance for better preparation for voting, instead of rushing to a vote without understanding.

To the Daughters of the Confederacy who have recently formed Chapters in the colleges, it is recommended that they adopt the Parliamentary Guide, by Harriet Shattuck. This is the accepted authority used by the U. D. C. It is simple, explicit and clear; does not burden women with more rule than is requisite for the intelligent conduct of deliberation and business. It is well to know how to "state your measure; not to spoil it by violence; discredit by ignorance; present it with brilliance, moderation and practical detail," and to never be discouraged by defeat.

—MRS. THOMAS TAYLOR.

Mentha, and Some of Her Family Connections.

[Written for the Keystone.]

THE many discussions as to the origin of the mint julep, which have recently agitated the press of several of our commonwealths, have raised the humble herb of our gardens to unwonted prominence. *Mentha*, a genus of the natural Order Labiatae, (all its species bearing lip-shaped flowers) derives its name from *Mintha*, daughter of *Ocytus*, we are told.

Of the species belonging to this family, *Mentha piperica*, peppermint, and *M. viridis* are most familiar to us. The distinction given to the former by its employment in spicing a popular spirit! beverage, is not the only honor it may claim. Its patent rather consists in its value to the materia medica, to the confectioner, and to the house mother. What would the pharmacists do without mint essence, or ladies and children without the dainty "mint drop," aching heads without *Menthol*, the fashionable diner without its cordial, in *Crème de Minthe*, or the good mother without her mint teas and poultices in emergencies?

As the name implies in *Mentha viridis*, (spearmint) the leaves are of a vivid green hue, but the characteristics of the plant generally differ but little in appearance and qualities from peppermint. Both are widely diffused in their habitat. It is thought that spearmint is the variety cultivated in Palestine, and was the kind referred to by the Saviour when He said, "Woe unto you, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint, and anise, and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law."

Associated with Biblical allusions is the kindred species, hyssop, *Hyssopus officinalis*. As the symbol of purification, in the service of the Temple, it was used in sprinkling the vessels and everything to be cleansed. To quote from the Rev. H. Osborn: "A bunch of the common hyssop tied to a small stick and dipped in the water of purification, was used for centuries in the ceremonial of the early Christian Church for the purpose of sprinkling persons and places to be purified; and in consequence of this early practice, the brush used by the priests in Roman Catholic Churches in many places is still styled the 'hyssop.'"

This is an attractive plant growing in tufts about two feet high, with delicate leaves, which are "entire"—not serrated as in the above mentioned mints, and its bright blue flowers are borne in verticels along one side of the stem, instead of in whorls around the stem. A native of the Holy Land, it is an exotic here, and to be seen only in cultivation, being regarded as possessing valuable healing properties for coughs and throat affections.

One of the sweetest of this aromatic sisterhood is Lavender (*Lavendula*). Every one knows the delights of the distilled product, and what a refinement of sumptuousness it adds to the bath. But not the most delicious essence drawn from the essential oil can equal the exquisite delicacy of the faint, yet subtle perfume exhaled by the leaves, stems and flowers, when gathered fresh from the plants and laid away among the contents of the linen chest, or in the drawers of my lady's personal belongings which may absorb their sweetness. Lavender then becomes an ideal fragrance. Oil of Lavender is extensively used in the manufacture of perfumes.

Summer Savory, Sweet Basil, and Sweet Marjoram form a group highly prized as culinary flavoring. They supply the proper "seasoning" and give the right zest to many dishes, which otherwise would be "flat" and tasteless.

The first is a native of Italy, with small narrow leaves, and pink or purple flowers, a low, bushy perennial.

Sweet Basil, (*Ocimum basilicum*) originally came from the Orient, where it is at home. It is delightfully odoriferous.

A charming little plant is the Sweet Marjoram,—low, shrubby, a multitude of delicate stems full-leaved, soft, and fluffy in its character of growth, with compact, roundish spikes of pink flowers, clustered at the end of the branches. It is a floral citizen of Portugal, and yields the famous Oil of *Origanum*.

Another cluster of labiates, esteemed in herbal hygiene, comprises Hoarhound, Horsemint, "fragrant Dittany," Pennyroyal, Balm, and Catnip or Catmint. Cats are naturally carnivorous, save when it comes to nipping Catmint—of which they seem exceedingly fond.

The common Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) is conspicuous for its peculiar tint of foliage, upon which Dame Fashion has set her stamp of approval and appropriation.

It is true that several "cousins" wear a hoary tinge of leaf and stem, but the color is not the favored "Sage Green."

Sage is also elevated upon the pedestal of homely domestic virtues. She has a large family, and reminds one of a wise old woman among her kith and kin, kindly, helpful, benevolent, revered. But she must not always be associated with the mysteries of the pantry—the Christmas turkey and its necklace of sausage, or of toothsome forcemeats, or as comforting a "cold" with a warm cup, or with the healing of a sore throat with tea, alum and honey; for among the four hundred members of this genus are some very elegant and handsome species. Take *Salvia Splendens*, for instance. It is a Mexican, but deservedly has become a welcome denizen in the gardens of the States, where in autumn and the late summer months in opulent bloom, it beams in scarlet glory of most vivid and wonderful brilliance.

Regarding Thyme (*Thymus*) the ancient Greeks declared in the name, their belief that courage was imparted by inhaling its fragrant and invigorating aroma. Let all those addicted to "fear thought," wear an amulet of Thyme.

It may well be supposed that Shakespeare knew how to appreciate this spicy herb of the garden, and its woodland sister. *Thymus, serpyllus*, of the groves and hillsides, and doubtless many a fair Rosalind, and happy Orlando outside the Forest of Arden, knew and loved a trysting "bank," "whereon the wild thyme grew."

The very bees of Attica felt the charm and understood the excellence of wild thyme, and diligently sought its fragrant fields on Mount Hymmettus, and gave to the feasts of the classic Athenians such golden honey, and of such rare, delectable quality, as was believed nothing could yield save the nectar of wild thyme on Hymettian slopes. The fame of that supernal sweet has come down to us through the ages, nothing comparable to it save the store of the busy winged workers in similar nectareous foraging on Mt. Hybla, in Sicily.

Unlike most of *Mentha's* relations, Rosemary has a very limited and exclusive circle. But it is æsthetic, as its patronymic declares. *Rosmarinus*, dew of the sea! Is there not poetry in this idea? The name naturally suggests the Rosicrucians, that mystic sect of philosophers, which sprang up in Germany several centuries ago, and pretended to possess the secret of the philosopher's stone. How strange their belief in the alchemy of dew! And what a curious tangle of religious sentiment with dew and the Cross! Rosemary is indigenous in Southern Europe, along the shores of the Mediterranean, hence the name: *ros*, dew; *marinus*, of the sea. Like its congener labiates, Rosemary is rich in aromatic oil, which is largely used in various ways, and valuable enough to be often adulterated with cheaper substances.

Owing to certain superstitions attached to the plant, in Europe, it was used in both marriage and funeral ceremonies.

Mentha and her kindred form a most useful order of plants, not one of which is poisonous. —ELIZABETH L. H. WILLIS.

The Origin and Benefits of the Woman's Exchange.

THE first Woman's Exchange of which we have any knowledge, was organized in New York City. "It grew out of a conviction of mine," says the President, "That the educated poor were being neglected. Its steady growth for twenty-one years, and the establishment of over eighty branches in different parts of the world, proves that the conception was not a mistaken one.

It is hard work to raise money for the class of poor for whom the Exchanges are working, because their poverty is not as apparent as it is among the uncultured. The number and character of our subscribers show how many of the rich people of our large cities are interested in our work for gentlewomen, often because of the misfortunes of old friends and relatives. We have contributors of all manner of things, from every State in the Union." It would appear from this statement that the Exchange was not the result of the war, as was the case with the South, but an expedient for the relief of needy gentlewomen dependent upon their own exertions, and without any occupation suited to their condition and circumstances, to support themselves and their families, by the proceeds of the manufacture, and sales of articles within their reach. They are encouraged to engage in all kind of work suited to their skill, and a permanent depot is provided where they can find a market for their handiwork. Paintings, bric-a-brac, needle work, and flowers, bread, cake, jellies, and other home made dainties are placed on sale at the Exchange, and become steady sources of income to the regular consignors. A small commission of ten per cent. charged, pays only a small portion of the expenses necessarily incurred in this department. "To charge nothing for selling their goods would be to ask them to accept a humiliating charity. The charge of ten per cent. establishes the desired feeling of business relations between the society and the consignor."

The advantages that the Exchange brings to reduced gentlewomen are obvious. It reaches a class of needy and worthy women who must otherwise suffer great privations.

It provides means and opportunities of disposing of the products of their labors, and of valuable articles, which their necessities oblige them to part with. It gives scope and exercise to their varied talents in the sphere of art, and their skill in needle work. It enables them to earn a livelihood, and maintain their independence without wounding their pride, and losing their self-respect by being treated as objects of charity.

The Exchange confers many benefits upon the community in which it exists. Its business transactions have a commercial value. "During the seventeen years of our existence," says a member of the New Orleans Exchange, "we have paid to poor women nearly three hundred thousand dollars." The New York Exchange reports nearly fifty-two thousand dollars as the proceeds of the sales of last year. The restaurant, which is largely furnished by consignors, offers a cheap and convenient lunch room to merchants, clerks and ladies, during the hours of their shopping. Its connection by telephone with the residences of the city, enables the housekeeper to order bread, cake, and other dainties for their table; this is a great convenience in an emergency, and is highly appreciated. The Exchange has proved a blessing to the poor in

small communities where a complete organization is not practicable, by providing a room where articles of various kinds are displayed and sold.

The Charleston Exchange was organized in 1885. It has an interesting history, and has done a noble work. It had its origin in the active brain, and benevolent heart, and resolute purpose of Mrs. R. B. Chapman, whose efforts were seconded by the warm sympathy and untiring energy of Mrs. Andrew Adger, of blessed memory. The enterprise did not at first meet with encouragement, but these brave and determined ladies resolved to call a meeting in a room of the Charleston Hotel, kindly offered them by Mrs. Jackson, over which Miss Rebecca Holmes was called to preside. There were present eighty ladies, representing nearly every church. Mrs. Chapman laid before them her plans, which met with a hearty approval. The Exchange was organized at once. At the sixth annual meeting the following resolution was offered, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, "That Mrs. R. B. Chapman and Mrs. Andrew Adger be made honorary Vice-Presidents, and that their names be gratefully enrolled as such, in recognition of their services in originating and organizing this Society." Mrs. C. C. Pinckney was elected the first President. In her first annual report she says: "We began with a small capital, fifty-two dollars, (members subscriptions) and a large stock of faith and hope. A room was rented, and furnished with the liberal gifts of our managers and members. The number of members finally rose to 385, and we received with grateful thanks several donations, the largest being \$157, through Miss R. T. Holmes, from the Ladies' Depository. It is interesting to know that this sum is a part of a fund given by the Swedish singer, Jennie-Lind, to the Charitable Societies of Charleston in 1850."

There are no salaried officers in the Exchange, with the exception of the Superintendent and her assistant; to these expenses must be added the rent of a room, and servants' hire. Generous contributions, from time to time, have been made by gentlemen of the community, and Northern friends.

We have been compelled to supplement the income from membership fees, and the percentage on the sales of workers by furnishing suppers for clubs and societies. Quoting from the President's eighth annual report: "What was regarded as a venture by a few brave women, has become a necessity in the community, and given timely relief to many gentlewomen who would otherwise have suffered much from anxiety and privation.

It sometimes happens, that institutions of this kind begin under favorable auspices, and flourish for a time; but members gradually lose their interest, grow weary in well-doing, and noble enterprises come to an untimely end. But we are to be congratulated that our work has continued with unabated energy and zeal, and that it is now numbered among the permanent institutions of this city of numerous and noble charities." "I do not know what we should do without the Exchange," remarked one of its patrons. "The closing of the Exchange," said another, "would be more disastrous to me than the earthquake." We are confident that they expressed the sentiments of many others.

Some idea of the progress of the society, and the work accomplished during its fourteen years existence, may be formed from the fact that it has paid to its consignors over \$48,000. Considering the size of our community, the severe blows that have crippled us, such a report ought to excite an honorable pride, and inspire us to more earnest effort.

—T. LOUISE BRACKETT.

Club Column.

MANAGER, MISS LOUISA B. POPPENHEIM, CHARLESTON, S. C.

All Clubs in the State are invited to send notes to this department which will be continued monthly.

THE KEYSTONE is prepared to furnish programs and outlines of study for clubs. For further particulars, apply to the managers of this column.

The S. C. Kindergarten Association.

ON Tuesday, October 17th, the S. C. Kindergarten Association resumed its regular monthly meetings, at the Kindergarten Room, corner Church and Queen Streets.

The interest and enthusiasm was inspiring, and all seemed to feel that however delightful the summer, it was good to meet and take up the responsibilities of a new year of work.

The Association voted to join the City Union of Woman's Clubs. Also, arrangements were made for the gathering together of the fifty-two volumes for the circulating library. Naturally, the report of the welfare of the Free Kindergarten and the Training Class for Kindergartners was of great interest.

Altogether the outlook is bright. There are many plans to be discussed in the near future, one looking forward to a course of lectures on educational and kindred subjects, for the members of the Association and their friends, is in the line of self-culture, and is a move in the right direction, for to be able to give to others, it is necessary to get for ourselves, and the Association is primarily and always a giver.

EVELYN HOLMES,
Director S. C. K. A. Training Class.

Daughters of the Confederacy.

THE Society of the Daughters of the Confederacy of Charleston was organized formally on December 1st, 1894. A few days after it received a charter from the General Association of the Daughters of the Confederacy (then called the National Association) as Chapter Number 4 of that Order.

At its organization the Chapter had a membership of eighty-four. There are now enrolled upon its books over 400 names, but removal from the city, a few resignations and deaths have in the five years passed kept the actual membership down to 385.

The life of this Association has been characterized by great unity and unselfishness of purpose, and a quiet, conservative spirit. Each member has worked for the good of the whole, and all have kept steadily in view the object of awakening an interest in and veneration for the history of the South's great struggle for freedom.

At the close of its fifth year, Charleston Chapter stands strong in numbers and good will; ready, we hope, for years of useful work. What that work will be through the coming year, cannot yet be said, but one feature of it is assured. The Chapter being well established now in an excellent and roomy hall, every effort will be made to enlarge and care for their already valuable collection of articles, pictures and papers of historic interest, as connected with the Confederate War.

—L. McC. SMYTHE.

SECRETARIES of Clubs are requested to make their reports as condensed as possible. As clubs and Associations increase the demand for space is greater. The Keystone desires to give all fair representation and will do so as far as it is in their power.

Rock Hill.

THE month of September was a literary mosaic of intellectual enjoyment that will be remembered by the Palmetto Circle with pleasure. An informal meeting of this Circle was held at the hospitable home of Mrs. H. B. Buist, and William Cullen Bryant was discussed, and selections from his poems read. At the regular monthly meeting quite an animated discussion was provoked by the desire for a change in the name of our Club. The Palmetto enjoys such an enviable popularity that we will gracefully yield in favor of Chester. The Perihelion will succeed the Palmetto, and we introduce and welcome this Club into the arena of club life. "We seek the light," is our modest, unassuming motto. May it not prove an "ignis fatuus," but a light that "beacons the darkness of Heaven."

A mass meeting of the 28th of September was the finale of our program for the month, preparatory to the union of City Clubs.

"The Amelia Pride Book Club" and "Over the Teacups" assembled with us, and the ultimatum was the formation of the "Women's Club Union of Rock Hill, S. C." This altruistic movement into broader fields of activity deserves success, and a hearty co-operation, with earnest work of both hearts and hands, for "in union there is strength."

—MRS. W. B. STEELE, JR.

Greenville.

THE Club Column acknowledges the receipt of the new program of the "Thursday Club" of Greenville. The blue and gold cover is most attractive, and the printing and style of paper show very good taste. The subject for the year (1899-1900). The last two centuries in Great Britain is well handled, and the interest well divided.

The "open days," which seem to be monthly, must add new life to the regular routine.

An interesting committee, and one to be suggested to all clubs, is the one on Parliamentary Rules.

This department will be pleased to receive programs from all Clubs in the State.

Charleston.

THE Century Club will hold its first meeting after the summer holidays on Monday afternoon, November 6th.

Hints from Other States.

TENNESSEE has just organized a Woman's Press Club.

The New Century Club of Philadelphia, Penn., allows its President to issue to visiting club women cards of membership, which entitles the holder to all of the privileges of the club for thirty days. These cards are limited to ten for each month, and are given at the request of some member. They afford unequalled opportunities for observing the management and social functions of this club.

The manager of this column is at present enjoying the privileges of such a card.

This club was organized in 1877, is a department club, made up of about 700 women, and has its own club house, which is beautifully appointed. Its interests are far reaching, and its work planned and carried out by well-organized committees.

The Psychology and Child Study Club has had two meetings. One regular and one specially called to arrange a program for the coming year. It was decided that the Club should go in for regular work in psychology and child study, and a limited number of questions were given out to be discussed at the next meeting.

It was also decided that professionals should be asked to give lectures at stated intervals, upon related subjects. A committee was appointed to extend the invitations and two gentlemen of the Medical faculty have accepted. The first lecture will be on Hygiene, by Dr. Allard Memminger, on Thursday, November 2nd, at 4.30 P. M., in the Club room at Mrs. Lining's Normal Training School for Kindergartners, 14 St Philip street.

By a unanimous vote the privileges of the Club were extended to the young ladies of the Training School, and they are invited to be present at the lectures and all the discussions of the Club. The invitation was gratefully accepted by Mrs. Lining, who is the president of the Club. Much interest is being manifested in the combined studies of Psychology and Physiology, and several members of the Club have applied and been admitted to Mrs. Lining's Monday afternoon classes for a closer study of these related subjects. Altogether the Club seems to have entered upon the new year with energy and vigor, and all the members being real workers it is safe to say they will do a great deal.

C. H. FORD, Cor. Secy.

D. A. R.

AT last accounts the readers of The Keystone contemplated the Daughters of the American Revolution in a state of masterly inactivity. "Mais, nous avons changé tout cela!" The autumn breezes are now blowing over the Carolina hills, the fields are ablaze with golden rod, the burrs are opening among the forest trees, and there is a misty splendor in the waning sun—all of which signs attest to the coming of another season in the changeful year. And, do not we ourselves change with the seasons? All the senses answer, "Yes, we do!" With the subtle difference in the air, there comes to the human frame a subtle difference also. The first cool snap acts upon the physical forces as a kindling fire in the blood. Only a change in the temperature! Yet, in some mysterious way that change fraternizes with the aspiration in our souls, and the desire in our hearts, and sings in unison with "that voice of God within the attentive mind." I will not affirm that the weather makes us what we are, but I do believe it oftentimes prevents us from becoming what we would be. Our quality hangs upon the point of the compass, and our energies only stand upon tiptoe in the presence of a snowflake. Our thoughts turn with the currents in the air; they turn now naturally to work instead of to sap, while those sympathies which have strayed all summer into the growing grass and the mystic moons, come back again to the anvil and the forge. Awake ye! arise! be up and doing! It is the swing of the wind loosening the bars of lethargy, and hence, while the mole and the turtle, and the toad are preparing to bury themselves for the winter, and the woodchuck

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 10]

College News.

Manager: Miss C. H. POPPENHEIM, Charleston, S. C.

All colleges for women in the State are invited to send notes to this Department.

Presbyterian College for Women.

Columbia, S. C.

OUR College opened with a larger attendance than ever before. The old girls were glad to return, and the new ones were welcomed, and soon made to feel at home. Several new teachers have been added to the corps. They are Mr. H. J. F. Mayser, Director of Music, pupil of Dr. Wm. Mason, S. P. Warren and others. Miss Amelia V. Fulkerson, formerly connected with Converse College, Teacher of Art. Miss Helen Gray has charge of the Department of English Language and Literature, and is a graduate of Cornell University.

A reception was tendered Miss Fulkerson on Friday, October 6th, in the studio of the college, to which some of the town's people were invited. Miss Fulkerson's paintings were very much admired, and every one pronounced the afternoon a delightful one.

Owing to a severe illness, Dr. Everhardt, our college physician, has been prevented being with us, but we hope she will soon be able to resume her duties.

Many of us attended a reception given by the Y. M. C. A. of S. C. College, at the residence of Dr. Flinn. It is needless to say that it was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

A most charming evening was spent by the members of the Faculty, and the students, at the hospitable home of Mr. W. A. Clark, on Elmwood Avenue, Friday, October 13th.

Converse College, Spartanburg, S. C.

CONVERSE COLLEGE has had the largest opening in its history. Every available space is occupied, and every room in the new large dormitory is full. The students come from 18 or 20 different States, and a great many have enrolled from the Southwestern States. Nearly 400 students reported on the opening day, and the roll will go over 500 during the year.

Converse feels grateful for the confidence and patronage from all over the country.

It is almost phenomenal that the new large dormitory, as well as all of the former dormitory buildings, should have been nearly filled on the first day. It is hoped that a larger Science Hall, and another large dormitory may be ready for the many applicants by September, 1900.

If the growth of Converse College, in plant, in funds and students, will be as great in the next ten years, she can become indeed a strong, independent University for women, and by that time there may be 1,000 students within its walls.

Converse College is a great monument to the sympathies and gifts of the citizens of Spartanburg, and especially to the great benevolence of that modest gentleman and sincere philanthropist, Mr. D. E. Converse.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9.]

seeks the shelter of his hibernaculum, we creatures of a finer mould are preparing to face the tempest, break down the barriers, and surmount the task.

This is the present attitude of the Daughters of the American Revolution, not only in South Carolina, but all over the country. The average woman is credited with the possession of, at least, two ideas in her head. But now I have to tell you of a band of women who have only one idea to twenty-eight thousand heads! One little idea among so many heads! That idea, however, embodies a magnificent conception, a glorious purpose, a tremendous undertaking. The grandest thing of the kind ever projected by women in this or any other age, in this or any other country. It is the construction of a Continental Memorial Hall, "to be erected by the National Society of the D. A. R., at the National Capital. The plan and scope of this large and magnificent monument to the memory of the makers and savers of the Republic of the United States of America reveal the mighty force of the National idea that has united and held together this body of women through the nine years of its existence as a Society. This Memorial Building will be a large moral factor in the seeming materialization of the present age, to lift before the eyes of the nations the principles embodied in the National Constitution, and interwoven in the National life. It is pre-eminently woman's province to set in motion all those moral forces and influences that make for the higher patriotism, and to give them color, life and equipment; and woman's hand has never achieved a mightier work to conserve for all coming generations the National idea, than this consecrated Memorial Hall, dedicated to the men and women who moulded the National life.

Here, then, is the one idea involving such stupendous effort! The one purpose developing such manifold endeavor! Twenty-eight thousand minds, and fifty-six thousand hands are full of it!

Shall we ever accomplish it, think you? You will know that we will surely if you are an astute feminine reader. It is not an easy matter to divert one woman from a set purpose, and where is the power which can divert this whole army of women from their own cherished project? No such power exists. We will build our Memorial Hall; not in a year; not in two, perhaps; but as soon as may be. Work on so grand a scale requires much time, but it will advance as a mighty tide pressing forward against a strong wind; we must expect a check here, a reverse there, a beating back now and then, though ever gradually gaining ground.

But is it merely the expression of a great sentiment, or do we need such a building? Allow me to quote again from the circular of the National Society: "The need of the building for the actual daily working forces of the Society, and for the preservation of its archives and relics, as well as for its meeting place for the Annual Congress, is imperative."

We need it; we want it; we must have it.

I hope some day, not very distant, to announce in the pages of The Keystone that the Continental Memorial Hall of the Daughters of the American Revolution, now claiming all of our energies and attention, has become an accomplished fact.

MRS. CLARK WARING,
State Regent D. A. R. for S. C.

Daughters of the Confederacy.

THE fourth Convention of the South Carolina Division U. D. C., will be held in Greenville, November 14th. It was decided to hold the State Convention immediately after the U. D. C. Convention, which meets in Richmond, November 8th, because of the numerous proposed amendments to the U. D. C. Constitution, many of which, if passed, will affect the State Constitution which should be revised accordingly.

These circumstances will lend unusual interest to the sessions of the State Convention.

The Greenville Chapter has planned a delightful programme for the entertainment of the delegates during the two days that the Convention will be in session.

The Division now numbers 29 Chapters, and every effort is being made to have each Chapter represented by at last one delegate.

MRS. W. C. MCGOWAN,
President S. C. Division, U. D. C.

The Other Side.

BY IVAN SWITHIN:

Written for The Keystone.

SHE was very pale, nay pallid is a better word, as she lay there limp and worn, after weeks of agony, fit sequel to the pain she had borne more or less patiently for years; now she had come to the end. She closed her eyes an instant.

Joan—"Shall I shut the door?" This was certainly her own voice speaking!

Angelus—"No, you have come through easily enough; do not trouble about it; do not shut others out who wish to enter."

Joan—"Where am I? Why do I feel so free from care, from pain?"

Angelus—"Do you not know, dear child, that this is the other side of the door?"

Joan—"The door, what door?"

Angelus—"The door which grief, and pain, and despair is opening momentarily for those whom Time needs no more."

Joan—"Then this is Eternity, and that is Death's door?"

Angelus—"Exactly so, child."

A door between a living present and its dying past,
'Tis ever opening, never shut quite fast."

Joan—"But why do you call me 'child,' seeing in the world I was grown up?"

Angelus—"Time has only children; Knowledge comes, but Wisdom lingers; Time has Knowledge, in Eternity one finds Wisdom."

Joan—"But I always thought Death gloomy, dark, hard and cold, and once passed, there was no return, no recall, and you say 'tis only a 'door' half opened; may I step back into that world but just left?"

Angelus—"You may, if so you wish; you will not, however."

Joan—"But why?"

Angelus—"You must needs rest from the burden you have borne so long, and then—but your own heart has answered."

Joan—"Yes, I must know all that is before me. And this is Death! How simple, how dreadless! I wonder what they are doing on the world side of the door?"

Angelus—"You really wish to know? Return, but you may not come into this clearer, grander, wisdom sphere again, for years and years. You wish for pain?"

Joan—"Ah! no, and yet, now that it is forever behind me, it seems very short, that existence of pain! If only this mist would clear away that I might explore this life!"

Angelus—"Mist? There are no mists here!"

Joan—"Do you not seem to be surrounded by a milky haze which conceals distance, and reveals but one step to you?"

Angelus—"No, I have no earthward wish or memory, therefore all is clear."

Joan—"Then, if I would go on, progress in this life, I must forget my earthly existence?"

Angelus—"One must put aside desire for return, which must needs be but idle curiosity now, seeing you have stepped through Death's door; forget all, but what is before you, look and long onward."

Joan—"Oh! so many worlds, so much to do! But I thought a future life was one of rest, of psalm singing, with an occasional meal of milk and honey; I find nothing of that sort here."

Angelus—"Nor will you; sordid earth views will never be realized in this, the only beautiful, because true life. Art tired? Rest you will have, but it will not be rest of idleness or inactivity. The tired part of one needing such rest never passes through the door; 'tis ever left on the world side, buried, destroyed, put out of sight. The music of the spheres, the music of joyous souls freed from earth-care will set sound in your ears as the sanctimonious droning of psalms of which you have often wearied on earth. Real music is true utterance of truth from overflowing hearts, and souls, and lives. Such will you hear, and help to swell here. Milk and honey! Milk, the pure, white, life-giving fluid; honey, the offered sweetness of the winged insect world, are but symbols; one of the pure food which the soul needs to strengthen it in this spiritual sphere, the other typical of the sweetness of the purified, strengthening, ever-developing character. You will feed and develop as your soul, yourself, needs. But you have been long enough at the door; do you wish to go on, to move nearer the Source of all Soul Life?"

Joan—"Yes, yes, why that is what we all come here for, is it not?"

Angelus—"The answer depends upon yourself, and the character you built in the earth world. I must go, the door opens."—Ivan Swithin.

Books and Authors.

"A BOOK is a man's best companion," says an enthusiastic reader, "and one he always desires to have with him." To this we may reply, "there are books and books." If a book be true, and pure, and wholesome, if it inspires in us lofty desires and faith in the ideal, if it makes us perceive and reverence the best characteristics of a man, and causes us to pity the evil doer, while we censure the course he pursues, such a book is indeed our best companion.

If even failing this, it paints the beauties of art or nature with a glowing brush, and by inspiring us with a love of the beautiful, keeps in abeyance the grosser tendencies of our nature—then too we may hail it as a valuable friend.

The genial humorist, who by his good natured wit, makes us smile as we see our own follies reflected in the follies of others, yet who is careful never to mock at misfortune, or make light of vice, how many weary hours has he not beguiled as too sick for active employment, too heartsore for more serious reading, we pass the time in this inspiring companionship. It may truly be said of such books, and such

authors, that to the world at large they are the brightest blessing, to the individual man or woman the solace of existence, as well as the builder up of character.

But if this be true of a good book, is not the reverse equally true of a bad one? How many of us have owed our downfall in life to the influence of pernicious literature? Then glory and honor to that publisher who never permits to issue from his press any work calculated to injure the moral tone of the youth of his nation.

"Some books," says the great Bacon, "are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested;" and further on in the same essay, "Histories make men wise, poets witty; the mathematics, subtle; antural philosophy, deep; moral, grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend."

How true is it that to books we owe the choicest blessings of existence. And those writers who bless and inspire us, are they not in their turn indebted to other authors for delight and inspiration? Dickens, in his tribute to Thackeray, describing those periods most marked in his remembrance of him, says: "By none do I remember him more tenderly than by two or three that start out of the crowd, when he unexpectedly presented himself in my room, announcing how that some passage in a certain book had made him cry yesterday, and how that he had come to dinner 'because he couldn't help it, and must talk such passage over.'"

Dickens himself did an almost incredible amount of reading, when one considers the quantity of time he must have required in which to write so many books. From Franklin's Autobiography we learn how fond he was of reading, and how much he owed of his mental and moral improvement to such works as the Pilgrim's Progress, Burton's Historical Collections, and Plutarch's Lives.

Charles Lamb describes himself as an omnivorous reader, eagerly devouring everything in the way of literature, good, bad, and indifferent. We should not recommend his course to many, since it is likely not many are able to do as he did, and healthily reject from his mental digestion all the evil and indifferent matter with which his greed of books had brought him into contact.

It is often the case that where we become so fond of a book as to read it several times, we indulge in a species of hero-worship for its author. Which of us has not said, "I wish I might be the friend of such and such authors; I am so in touch with their books, I feel sure I should become personally attached to them;" or, "I owe such an one a debt of gratitude for the book he or she has written, I should so much like to express my gratitude in words."

Which of us has not roamed the "daisied fields" with Tom and Maggie Tulliver, or in fancy sat with Dick Swiveller and the Marchioness at their game of cribbage? How many tears have we not shed over the death of little Paul, or the noble old Colonel Newcome, whose fearless, submissive spirit made him ready to answer "Adsum," when God called his name? And with what loving, half-reverent laughter have we not followed the adventures of Cervantes' hero, Don Quixote, or the fortunes of the Primrose family as told by the worthy Vicar?

These, and many others have been the companions of our childhood, the friends and guides of our maturer years. To them we owe much of uplift and inspiration. Many worthy desires and ambitions—many moments of heartfelt laughter—and to them in return we should make the acknowledgment of heartfelt, lasting gratitude.

—LILLIAN FOSTER COLBY.

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